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by the Bureau of Standards for standardizing bomb calorimeters by means of standard samples of certain pure materials, viz., sugar, naphthalene and benzoic acid. By burning known amounts of these substances in the bomb the observer determines the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of the bomb together with the proper amount of water one degree. This being determined the amount of heat furnished by a given sample of coal burned in the same bomb with the same amount of water can be found. Thus these standard samples, which are sent all over the United States, serve as standards of heat and make it possible to get the same results from tests made anywhere in the country, much as the use of the standards of length and of mass makes a yard or a pound the same in all parts of the country. Copies of this paper known as Circular No. 11, "Standardization of Bomb Calorimeters," may be obtained without charge upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that Mr. James Berry, who is at the head of a British hospital mission at Vrnjachka Banya, has collected from official sources figures which show that ninety-three Serbian physicians have died out of a total of 387 alive at the beginning of the war. Of these, no fewer than eighty-two succumbed to typhus fever, and only one was killed in battle. These figures contrast remarkably with those of the recent Turkish war in which Serbia lost only two physicians. Of the foreign physicians who have come to her aid in this war, thirty-five have died from typhus or typhoid fever. They include three British, four American, two Belgian, several Greeks, and six others.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. JOHN LEE COULTER has been appointed dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station of the West Virginia University. He goes from the George Peabody College, and will take the place of E. D. Sanderson, who resigned about a year ago.

At the Johns Hopkins University, the degree of bachelor of science in education has been established in connection with the college courses for teachers and the summer courses. The degree will be open to men and women. The regulations concerning the work for the new degree will be determined by an advisory committee of the faculty. The title of director of the college course for teachers and of the summer courses has been assigned to Professor Edward F. Buchner.

DR. ORIN TUGMAN, of the staff of the research laboratory of the Eastman Kodak Company, has been elected associate professor of physics at the University of Utah.

DR. L. CHAS. RAIFORD, of the department of chemistry of the University of Chicago, has been elected professor of chemistry in the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

DR. J. A. MENZIES has been appointed professor of physiology in the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ANOTHER REASON FOR SAVING THE GENUS

I AM writing to second Dr. F. B. Sumner's plea for the saving of the genus.<sup>1</sup> I am sure he has the sympathy of the great mass of workers in non-taxonomic biology. Leaving aside the question of expressing relationship in the generic name which Sumner has so well stated, there is another point that he has not sufficiently emphasized. It is by the genera that animals and plants are catalogued. In the *Nautilus*, Vol. 28, February, 1915, the writer made this plea. I illustrated it by the form on which I had been working for the past eight years, the genus *Lymnæa*. I quote the following passage from that paper:

The most recent classification of this group is that of F. C. Baker in his admirable "*Lymnæidæ of North and Middle America*" (Chicago Academy of Sciences Pub. No. 3, 1911), p. 120. Whereas the older classifications considered shell characters alone, this author "proposed to classify the

<sup>1</sup> "Some Reasons for Saving the Genus," SCIENCE, Vol. XLI., No. 1068, p. 899.